

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04822 120522Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 FBO-02 MCT-01
DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01
SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 /079 W
-----120525Z 043280 /10/40

O 111037Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1553

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4822

FOLLOWING RCVD FROM KARACHI 11 MAY REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 2251

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PK
SUBJECT: SECURITY/POLITICAL SITUATION IN KARACHI

1. CALL IT THE CURFEW OR CALL IT A HARTAL, KARACHI IS
PARALYZED MAY 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS HALTED AND
MOST SHOPS ARE CLOSED, WITH THE CITY BACK UNDER A DAYTIME
CURFEW (0800 TO 1400 AND 1600 TO 2000). ATTENDANCE AT
OFFICES IS POOR (LESS THAN 25 PERCENT AT THE CONSULATE
GENERAL) AS IT IS ALSO AT FACTORIES.

2. ABOUT MID-DAY MAY 10 PNA HANDBILLS AND LEAFLETS
BEGAN TO APPEAR IN THE MARKETS AND AT THE MOSQUES.
THEY CALLED FOR A HARTAL MAY 11 TO PROTEST BHUTTO'S
"TYRANNY" AND THE "ATROCITIES" COMMITTED BY THE POLICE AND
THE ARMY IN SUPPORTING HIM. (WE UNDERSTAND SIMILAR
NOTICES WERE CIRCULATED IN HYDERABAD BUT WE HAVE NO
DIRECT CONFIRMATION OF THAT REPORT YET.) THE MARTIAL LAW
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AUTHORITIES REACTED BY REIMPOSING A DAYTIME CURFEW FOR
MAY 11.

3. DEFIANCE OF THE CURFEW HAS BEEN MINOR AND SPORADIC
SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE AS OF LATE MORNING. THERE
WERE SCATTERED REPORTS OF ATTEMPTS TO HDLOCK TRAFFIC IN
LIQUATABAD AND NAZIMABAD, AND OF VERBAL ABUSE AND

SOME STONES THROWN AT ARMY DETACHMENTS. PRIVATE VEHICLES ARE OPERATING WITHOUT APPARENT HINDRANCE. POLICE AND ARMY SENTRIES AND PATROLS ARE CONSPICUOUS IN THE CITY. OBSERVERS EXPECT A MORE PURPOSEFUL ATTEMPT TO CREATE DISTURBANCES DURING THE RELAXATION OF THE CURFEW BETWEEN 1400 AND 1600, BECAUSE THE PNA HANDBILLS URGED PEOPLE TO DEMONSTRATE DURING PERIODS THAT THE CURFEW WAS RELAXED.

4. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MAY 11 HARAL WAS A QUICKIE, PRESUMABLY ISSUED WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING IN ORDER TO CATCH THE AUTHORITIES OFF BALANCE. HOWEVER, THE WORD HAD BEEN CIRCULATING FOR SEVERAL DAYS THAT THERE WOULD BE A HARTAL FRIDAY, MAY 13. SO FAR AS WE KNOW THAT EVENT IS STILL ON THE PNA CALENDAR, AND THERE IS WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THAT HARTAL CONDITIONS OR A HARAL-INSPIRED CURFEW WILL CRIPPLE THE CITY FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK.

5. IT LOOKS AS IF THE PNA CAMPAIGN IN KARACHI IS BEGINNING TO REGAIN SOME OF ITS MOMENTUM, WHETHER BY PARTY DESIGN OR BY VIRTUE OF A RESURGENCE OF POPULAR INDIGNATION AT THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE ARMY. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE PRIME MINISTER MAY HAVE CARRIED HIS STALLING TACTICS IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE PNA A BIT TOO FAR THEREBY WEAKENING THE STRONGER POSITION HE SEEMED TO HAVE GAINED IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO HEAR MOSTLY UNSPECIFIC BUT PERSISTENT REPORTS OF DISSATISFACTION AMONG ARMED FORCES OFFICERS WITH THEIR LEADERS' CONTINUED SUPPORT OF BHUTTO. THIS FEELING IS SAID TO BE PARTICULARLY CONFIDENTIAL

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WIDESPREAD IN THE AIR FORCE BUT A STORY REACHING US TODAY ASSERTS THAT THREE (UNIDENTIFIED) ARMY BRIGADIERS IN THIS AREA HAVE RESIGNED IN PROTEST. A LETTER ENROUTE TO HOWIE SCHAFER CITES A NUMBER OF OTHER REPORTED EPISODES OF THIS KIND.

MOORE
UNQUOTE
CONSTABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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